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MINUTES

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OF THE

FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Pratt Mines Baptist Church, Jefferson Co., Ala.,

September 21st, 22d and 23d, 1888.

OFFICERS.

A. J. WALDROP, Moderator.....Woodlawn, Jefferson Co., Ala.
R. W. BECK, Clerk.....East Lake, Jefferson Co., "

The next session of the Association will be held with the Ruhama Baptist Church at East Lake, commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in October, 1889, *at* 10 *o'clock a. m.*

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE BAPTIST JOB PRINTING COMPANY.
1888.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading of Church Letters.
2. Enrollment of Delegates.
3. Election of Officers.
4. Receive Churches Applying for Admission.
5. Appoint Special Committees.
6. Receive Correspondence.
7. Return Correspondence.
8. Miscellaneous Business.
9. Report on Foreign Missions.
10. Report on Home Missions.
11. Report on State Missions.
12. Miscellaneous Business.
13. Report on Temperance.
14. Report on Sabbath Schools
15. Report on Church Improvement.
16. Report on Documents.
17. Report on Religious Literature.
18. Report on Nominations.
19. Report of Treasurer.
20. Report of Finance Committee.
21. Appoint Standing Committees.
22. Miscellaneous Business.
23. Report of Committee on the Spiritual Condition of the Churches.
24. Adjournment.

MINUTES.

PRATT MINES, ALA., Sept. 21, 1888.

The fifty-fifth annual session of the Canaan Baptist Association assembled in the meeting-house of the First Baptist Church of Pratt Mines, at 10 o'clock A. M., on Friday, the 21st of September, 1888.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. A. J. Waldrop.

R. W. Beck was appointed temporary Clerk.

After singing a hymn, the Moderator read a selection of Scriptures from the 16th chapter of Luke, and prayer was offered by Rev. L. L. Belsher.

Some very instructive words of admonition were given the body by the venerable Moderator.

R. J. Waldrop and H. H. Brown were appointed to read the letters from the churches.

Delegates were enrolled as follows:

Avondale—Gilbert Carter, J A. Douglas, W. A. Hobson, H. H. Shell and R. D. Faggard.

Bessemer—T. P. Waller, M. N. Varnadoe, D. T. Hoover.

Birmingham, First—A. B. Johnston, N. F. Miles, John Gibson, R. J. Miles, H. D. Lyman.

Birmingham, Second—J. W. Stewart, J. M. Russell, D. J. Anderson

Birmingham, Third—James Hogan, T. D. Parsons, J. W. Tomlinson, Joseph Billion.

Birmingham, Southside—R. H. Sterrett, W. G. Chamberlin, Robert Holtam, M. B. Swanson, J. A. Stratton.

Bethany ——

Canaan—J. P. Massey, J. A. Walls, T. L. Shaw, J. N. Smithson.

Central—J. M. Presley, J. M Melton, J. T. Franklin, R. N. Hefner.

Concord—D. B. Franklin, Frank Letcher, S. B. Franklin, James Letcher, J. T. Harbour.

Dolomite—R. Y. Robertson, E. A. Harrison, J. A. Sartain, S. G. Robertson, J. J. Walker.

Elyton—David Weaver.

Enon—J. T. Rogers, L. Little.

Green Springs—W. H. Gordon, G. A. Roberson, Thomas Colley.

Hopewell ——

Mount Olive—E. S. Newman.

Jones' Valley ——

New Prospect—J. D. Falks, A. S. Pinson, S. T. Vann.

Oak Grove—G. A. Chunn, J. Glenn, J. B. McCombs, R. D. Glenn, J. A. McCombs.

Pleasant Ridge—O. J. Waldrop, J. V. Huey, T. Robertson, D. J. Huey.
Pratt Mines—J. M. Huey, R. R. Hill, T. W. Long, O. R. Morris, Daniel Bradley.
Ruhama—H. H. Brown, L. L. Belsher, T. V. B. Moor, R. J. Waldrop, R. W. Beck.
Salem—W. R. Hilliard, J. H. Murphey, D. B. Tucker, J. H. Hagood, Williamson Franklin.
Springville—J. T. Heart, J. W. Inzer, G. W. Truss, J. T. Herring.
Trussville—R. H. Hendon, D. N. Talley, M. K. Vann, D. H. Vann.
Williamsburg——
Warrior—James Doss, J. L. Hagler, A. M. Hendon.
Woodlawn—S. R. C. Adams, J. A. Painter, J. T. Mason, D. H. Montgomery, S. J. Wood.

Upon motion, A. J. Waldrop was admitted as delegate from Southside, instead of W. C. Ward.

On motion, the delegates from Trussville and Second church of Birmingham were admitted to seats without letters from their respective churches.

The following officers were unanimously elected, to-wit:

Moderator—A. J. Waldrop.
Clerk—R. W. Beck.
Corresponding Secretary—J. W. Stewart.
Treasurer—R. J. Miles.

New churches and others wishing to unite with this Association were called for, and the following churches presented their letters, and their delegates' names enrolled, to-wit: Concord, Elyton, Green Springs and Mt. Olive, and upon these letters they were elected members of this body.

T. V. B. Moor moved to postpone the preaching of the introductory sermon until the night session.

G. A. Chunn moved to amend by postponing until 2 o'clock P. M.

After some discussion the motion and amendment were withdrawn, and the sermon was preached at 11:35 o'clock A. M., by Rev. W. A. Hobson, of Avondale, from Matthew 28:16–20.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order at 2 P. M., and after singing, and prayer by Rev. J. W. Stewart, the following committees were appointed:

Finance—D. N. Talley, J. M Russell, J. M. Pressley.
Documents—J. W. Stewart, H. D. Lyman, R. H. Hendon.
Nominations—T. V. B. Moor, I. C. Brown, M. G. Carter.
Devotions—Pastor and deacons of Pratt Mines church, William Malone and J. H. Hagood.

Rev. W. A. Hobson was received as delegate from the Avondale church.

On motion, Mt. Olive church was received into the membership of this body, and E. S. Newman was admitted as delegate from that church.

Correspondents were received as follows:

Cahaba Valley Association—George Lovell.
Mud Creek Association—Rev. S. Thompson.
Shelby Association—Rev. G. T. Lee, W. D. Hubbard.
State Mission Board—Rev. W. B. Crumpton.
Alabama Baptist—Rev. C. W. Hare.
Church Building Board—Rev. G. A. Nunnally, D. D.

Upon motion of M. T. Branham, S. T. Vaun was admitted as delegate from New Prospect church.

Returned correspondence.

Under this head, on motion of R. J. Waldrop, it was ordered that any member of this body who may attend any other association shall be the appointed correspondent from this body to such association.

Under the call for miscellaneous business, Rev. W. B. Crumpton, secretary of our State Mission Board, being invited, spoke to the Association, earnestly and effectively, on the work of our State Board, giving the body a review of the various fields of his labors.

The report on Foreign Missions was read by J. M. Huey, chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The last recorded instruction of our Lord before he ascended to his mediatorial throne was: "Ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in Judea, and in all Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." This declaration discloses the grand purpose of church organization. It is that each and all may be missionaries to the whole human race. The church that fails to recognize this law is in process of speedy dissolution. The field is the world, and the obligation on every believer to go into the world and preach the gospel, is imperative and final. Christ has placed this responsibility upon us, and we cannot throw it off without increasing the risk of his displeasure and condemnation.

It is in the fulfillment of this grand purpose of Christ in saving the world, through the channel of his churches, that the Foreign Mission Board was organized forty-three years ago. The work has enlarged and widened steadily year after year. The reports from some parts of the field are more cheering than from others; but on the whole, amid much and grievous opposition, and even fierce persecution, the progress of the gospel has been marked in nearly every part of the field. Some of our heroic and consecrated missionaries have yielded their lives in the conflict. Brother Yates, after nearly forty-one years of continuous service in China, entered into the joy of his Lord on the 17th of March of the present year.

Brother Davault has also fallen asleep with the dying cry on his lips, Help, Help, Help!

Sister Graves has also been gathered to her reward.

How strongly do these events emphasize the demand for men and money to carry forward the work which these martyrs to the cause had barely begun. The work in China demands special consideration. In no part of the foreign field is the struggle so unequal, and the resistance so obstinate, as in China. The darkness of idolatry and superstition is so dense, and the population so immense, that it might well appall and dishearten the bravest of those heroes of the cross who have ventured into the midst of these swarming millions with the light of the gospel. God has not left himself without a witness even there. In North China we have two churches with a membership of 143. In Central China there are seven churches and stations, and eight were baptized last year. In South China there is a membership of 477, and thirty-two baptisms reported. The total contributions from these churches amounted last year to $448.58. There are also in this division eleven schools with an average attendance of 213 pupils.

These results seem meagre and inadequate to the labor and money expended, but ultimate success in this, as in all other mission fields, is as sure as the promises of God.

We have cheering news from Mexico. Our pioneer missionary, W. D. Powell, is moving forward in the face of bitter persecution by the Roman Catholic priesthood. Eight churches have been organized with eleven out stations. Two hundred and ten were baptized last year, and the membership of the entire mission number 500 We are glad to report that four new men from our Theological Seminary have volunteered for the work in Mexico. H. P. McCormick, from our own State, with his faithful and devoted wife, is laboring successfully at Zacatecas, and makes a touching appeal to the Baptists of our State for help to build a house of worship at that point to give weight to the work. He has been assaulted with stones, and every conceivable obstacle has been thrown in his way; but he has shown great personal powers, and the work goes bravely on. Our mission in South America, under the leadership of W. B. Bagby, E. H. Soper and Z. C. Taylor, is developing great interest. The same trouble with which Powell has to contend in Mexico, meets our little band of missionaries in Brazil. C. D. Daniel, who had charge of the mission in Bashia during the temporary absence of Brother Taylor, was warned by the priest that if he persisted in baptizing in the sea it would be at the hazard of his life. Nevertheless, from 1883 to 1888, there have been over 150 baptisms, and the contributions of the church have averaged $8 00 per member. Our mission at Rome, Italy, is under the supervision of G. B. Taylor and J. H. Eager, with eleven faithful and courageous native preachers. The work here is necessarily slow, as it has been the stronghold of Romanism for a thousand years. Until 1870 not one Roman dared proclaim himself evangelical, and no foreign Protestant could worship within the walls of Rome. Now, in 1888, there are 8,781 church members, 4,758 Sunday school pupils, 82 colporteurs, 192 preachers, 256 churches and stations, five orphan asylums and nine religious papers. We ought to thank God and take courage that once more the old land that first gave forth the glad sound of a pure gospel is receiving it back again. Let us do faithfully our part in the mighty work of human salvation, and thus hasten the day of the Lord's coming.

JOHN M. HUEY, Ch'n.

The discussion of the report was opened with a stirring speech by J. W. Stewart. At the close of his remarks further

discussion of the subject was postponed until Saturday morning's session.

On motion of R. J. Waldrop, the report on State Missions was made the special order for the Friday night session.

On motion, the Association adjourned to 7:30 P. M.

FRIDAY—EVENING SESSION.

After singing, and prayer by Rev. G. T. Lee, the body proceeded to the consideration of the special order—State Missions. The report was discussed by W. B. Crumpton and H. H. Brown in able and instructive speeches.

On motion of T. V. B. Moor, the report was adopted.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The great material development now going on in Alabama, and the consequent rapid increase of population, open to the State Board new and important fields for mission work. And as the demand for labor in the vineyard of the Lord increases, there is a corresponding increase in the demand for men and money. The fields are opened, and the people of God are called upon to occupy them, and we, as Baptists, must shoulder our part of the great responsibility. We cannot afford to be idle while the fields are whitening to harvest all around us, and when the Macedonian cry of "come over and help us" is heard from every direction. Alabama is surely and rapidly becoming one of the most important and most populous States of the South, and as it grows in wealth and population, it will grow in influence and power in shaping the destinies of this great country which God has given our people. In view of this fact none can fail to see the importance of prompt and energetic action, on the part of Christian people, in providing measures and means to keep the work of christianizing the populace fully abreast with the work of material development and prosperity. The Baptists of Alabama, outnumbering any other denomination in the State, should lead the Christian hosts in the all important work laid out before them, and see to it that the cause does not languish for the want of men or money.

The Canaan Association is located in the center of what is soon to be the seat, as it were, of the wonderful wealth, power and influence of the State, and hence it should be made a great and grand center of religious training and culture, from which would flow out in all directions pure streams of gospel light and knowledge.

The location of Howard College within the bounds of our Association will add to our facilities in accomplishing the work to be done, and it therefore becomes our duty to give that institution our earnest support and our deepest sympathy and most devout prayers.

The work is before us and the demands are urgent and pressing. Now, what are we going to do? Will we come up to the full measure of our duty? Will we quit ourselves like true, valiant and heroic soldiers? Are we not willing to spend and be spent in a cause so grand and glorious? Are we not willing to consecrate our lives, with all that we have and all that we are, to a cause the results of which are so momentous? Let our contributions for the next year be equal to the emergency and commemorate with the noble and exalted end to be attained.

The work of the State Board, under the immediate control and supervision of Brother W. B. Crumpton, for the past year, has been

successfully prosecuted, and the good accomplished cannot be counted or estimated by the finite mind. Eternity only can reveal the results of the efforts thus put forth in the cause of the Redeemer's kingdom.

This work should lie nearest our hearts, and our best endeavors should be exercised in its behalf.

Fraternally submitted,

H. H. Brown.

On motion of H. H. Brown, Rev. C. W. Hare was recognized as the editor of the Alabama Baptist, and invited to a seat in the Association.

After prayer by Rev. C. W. Hare, the Association adjourned until 9 A. M. Saturday morning.

SATURDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. S. R. C. Adams.

Under miscellaneous business, on motion of R. J. Waldrop, a committee consisting of J. W. Stewart, H. H. Brown and W. M. Malone, was appointed to draft suitable resolutions for the memorial services of Rev. J. J. D. Renfroe, D. D., and that they be instructed to report at 3:30 o'clock P. M. Sunday.

On motion of H. H. Brown, the Finance committee was instructed to closely scan all church letters, and report carefully all amounts given by our churches and for what purpose contrib ted.

On motion of J. W. Stewart, a committee was appointed consisting of H. H. Brown, J. W. Stewart and Gilbert Carter, to suggest a plan by which the Treasurer may be able to make to the next Association a clear statement of all amounts contributed by the churches during the next associational year.

The report on Home Missions was read by H. H. Brown, after which the whole subject of Missions was discussed by H. H. Brown, G. A. Nunnelly, C. W. Hare, R. J. Waldrop and G. A. Chunn in earnest and able talks.

On motion of M. G. Carter, the report on Home Missions was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board, under the auspices of the Southern Baptist Convention, is located in Atlanta, Ga., and its work for the past year has been successful, resulting in great good and in the material advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. The churches have responded to the calls of the board for funds to prosecute the important work, and good and self-sacrificing men have been found to engage in preaching the gospel to the destitute in the territory covered by the board. In several of the Southern States, and in the Territories of the West, the missionaries of the Home Board are accomplishing good re-

sults, and the comparatively small amount of money expended in this behalf has been the means, in the hands of God, of saving many souls and making many happy homes. But there is much yet to be done. The great and growing developments now going on in the South, the consequent flow of immigration to this country, and the rapid building up of mining and manufacturing cities and towns, open up new and important fields for the work of the missionary, and God's people have laid upon them new and corresponding responsibilities. Our churches and associations must meet the demands of the hour, and not allow this all important work to go undone for the lack of money to support those who are willing to undergo the hardships and privations of the true missionary's life. God is pouring out upon this people his many and rich blessings, and he demands at our hands a faithful and consecrated stewardship. He has blessed us that we may be the instruments in his hands of blessing others, and if we fail to discharge our duty in the premises, we must meet the consequences. In addition to the fields above mentioned, the Home Board is extending its operations in the island of Cuba, and under the leadership of that good and grand man, Alberto Diaz, it is accomplishing there perhaps the grandest work in its history. From the report of the board to the Southern Baptist Convention, at its last session, we extract the following:

"One of the most remarkable works of modern missions is now in progress in the island of Cuba.

"In but little more than two years since the organization of the first church on that island 1,100 have been baptized. Nine native preachers, some of them men of marked ability, have been raised up to proclaim the gospel.

"Daily schools and Sunday schools have been established, where hundreds of children are taught the way of life. And so rapid has been the increase of popular favor towards our work that to-day little, if any, less than one-half the population of Havana are in sympathy with our people. Nearly one-half the dead of Havana are buried in our Baptist cemetery.

"The devotion of our people there to the cause of Christ is shown by their contribution of $4,610 in a single year; by the unbroken courage with which they faced the dreadful pestilence of the past summer, going everywhere among the deserted sufferers, bearing in their hands healing for the body, and in their hearts balm for the soul; by the illustration of apostolic Christianity they have given, in enduring patiently the violence of the mob, the organized opposition of the priesthood, and the cold and cruel neglect of some of the authorities to enforce the law for their protection.

"Eight thousand persons have applied for membership in our churches. Many of these, of course, were ignorant of the true qualifications for church membership, and desired only to exchange the Catholic church for one which they preferred.

"One of the most eminent of the priests on the island having become a thorough convert to our faith, and having accepted Christ as his personal Savior, has avowed his intention of uniting with our Baptist people and preaching the gospel in Cuba.

"The Lord has indeed done marvelous things in Cuba for us, whereof we are glad."

From the same report we find that during the last conventional year the following work was done by the Home Board:

Number of missionaries employed, 287; number baptized, 4,857; Sunday schools organized, 431; churches constituted, 306; amount received, $48,023.17.

In closing this report we cannot be too earnest in urging the churches of this Association to make liberal contributions during the

next year for the support of the Home Mission Board, and we bespeak for all who may be engaged in the work the sincere prayers and hearty sympathies of all the members of our churches.

By an amendment to the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention, made at its last session, this Association is entitled to one delegate in that body, and we recommend the election of such delegate to represent us in the next session of the convention.

Respectfully submitted,

H. H. Brown, Ch'n.

On motion of R. J. Waldrop, Brother C. W. Hare was invited to speak to the Association in behalf of the Alabama Baptist, which he did.

On motion of H. H. Brown, a committee consisting of James Hogan, R. J. Waldrop and W. W. Harris, was appointed upon Religious Literature, with instructions to report during this session.

The Association then adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The session opened at 2 P. M. with prayer by the Moderator.

On motion of S. R. C. Adams, the report on Sunday Schools was made the special order for 9:30 A. M. Sunday.

The report on Education was read by R. J. Waldrop. The subject of Education was ably discussed by R. J. Waldrop, Dr. G. A. Nunnally, H. H. Brown and J. W. Stewart. The speeches were strong for Howard College, for male and female education.

The following resolution was offered by R. W. Beck and adopted:

Resolved, That the delegates from the different churches are requested to see that a strong committee be appointed in their respective churches whose duty it shall be to solicit subscriptions to the building of the main building of Howard College, and said committee are urged not to quit their labors until every member of their church has made a donation to Howard College. And that we urge the pastors in the Association to see to this work, and see that it is accomplished.

On motion, the report on Education was adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We, your committee on education, would report as follows: We do not deem it necessary to enter upon a discussion of the subject of education before this body. The necessity of education, in its broader sense, has been reported on annually for years and years. The good results to be obtained by a general literary education is patent to every mind, provided such education is turned in the proper direction. Education generates power. We, as parents, should be careful how or by whom our children are taught Parents are frequently too ready to consign the instruction of their children to the hands of incompetent and often wicked instructors—men and women who have no Christian convictions—or if they have, are too cowardly to put them into practice. No teacher of any mental or moral stamina can fail to leave his or her

impress upon the mind and heart of the child. Hence the necessity of securing genuine Christians as teachers. Your committee would urge upon parents to see to it that copies of the Alabama Baptist, Kind Words, Foreign Mission Journal, and papers and periodicals of the character of the above named be found on their tables for their children to read. Nothing in this day surpasses the religious press as an educator, and we should be careful that only such papers as proclaim the distinctive principles of our denomination as such should be placed in their hands. The Baptists of the Canaan Association have located in their midst Howard College, an institution devoted primarily to Christian education. The advantages accruing to these from it is of great value and should be seized upon by all who have sons to educate. By a recent act of the board of trustees Rev. Dr. B. F. Riley has been placed at the head of Howard College. Brother Riley is the peer of any man in Alabama as to educational qualifications. Cultivated, refined, educated in a literary sense to the highest point, progressive in his make up, active, earnest, true to his convictions, and last, but not least, a minister of the very finest type, aided by a fine corps of instructors, the young men of this Association do not need to go beyond the confines of its own territory to secure the very best educational facilities. Let us, then, in view of these facts, rally to the support of Dr. Riley and Howard College.

Another and very important feature of this subject is Ministerial Education. There were twenty-six theological matriculants at Howard College last year. The institution gives free tuition to theological students and ministers' sons. The great heart of the Baptist denomination of Alabama is in full sympathy with this work. We have a Board of Ministerial Education, located at Montgomery, Rev. Dr. M. B. Wharton, president, and we would urge upon the Baptists of this Association the importance of coming up liberally to the support of this board. The necessity of an educated ministry is patent to every thinking man. We must have our ministers abreast with the times. They need to be educated fully—they must be, or we, as a denomination, must fall behind in the march of progress.

The education of our girls is also a subject of special importance. The girls now growing up into joyous womanhood are to be the wives and mothers of the next generation. Hence the necessity that they also have the benefits emanating from a true Christian education. We owe it to our daughters; the possibilities of the future demand it at our hands. Let us arise in our strength and give to our daughters such an education as that they may improve upon the past and present generations of men and women in the way of genuine Christian characters. The Judson Female Institute, at Marion, and the Alabama Central Female College, at Tuscaloosa, under the supervision of Dr. S. W. Averett and Prof. S. B. Foster, offer precisely the advantages and opportunities desired. These, as well as Howard, are peculiarly the property of Alabama Baptists. They are our schools, our children. Let us patronize them.

Respectfully submitted,

R. J. WALDROP, Ch'n.

The report on Religious Literature was read by Jas. Hogan, and on motion of J. M. Huey, was adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: We wish to call the attention of the Baptists of the Canaan Association to the Alabama Baptist, our State organ, as one of the most effective aux-

iliaries in diffusing religious knowledge at our command. It will, to a wonderful degree, bring about concert of action and purpose in keeping before our people the various objects fostered by our denomination. It will also help the pastor in his work, and that pastor who fails to appreciate its merits in his field has, in our opinion, his eyes only half open to the work that lies out before us.

In like manner we would commend the Foreign Mission Journal as a means of wonderful power for developing the mission spirit of our churches, which is the vital part, as it deepens our views of the glorious gospel of the blessed God.

Our Sunday school literature is simply superb, as gotten up and supplied by the Home Board, located at Atlanta, Ga., and the American Baptist Publication Society, at Philadelphia.

We also wish to call attention to the Baptist Bible and Book Depository at Marion, Ala. All Bibles, books and periodicals can be procured through this agency as cheap as from first hands, and will help the depository.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. HOGAN,
R. J. WALDROP.

On motion of R. J. Waldrop, Dr. G. A. Nunnally was invited to address the body in behalf of the church building board, of which he is secretary.

The report of the committee on Systematic Giving was read by H. H. Brown and discussed by H. H. Brown, M. G. Carter, A. B. Johnston and J. T. Mason.

On motion of James Hogan the report was adopted.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SYSTEMATIC PLAN OF MANAGING THE FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The special committee to which was referred the subject of systematizing the financial work of the Association, beg leave to submit the following plan:

1. The financial year of the Canaan Association shall begin on the 1st day of September and end on the 30th day of August of each year.

2. The churches of the Association are requested to forward to the Treasurer of the Association, at Birmingham, all funds raised for missions, ministerial education, Howard College, church building, and all other purposes fostered by the denomination, and carried on by the various boards and organizations for such purposes.

3. That the churches be requested to classify all other funds raised under the following heads: Pastor's salary; Sunday school work; incidental expenses; for the poor; church building and repairs. And that the clerk, treasurer, or financial officer of each church, at the end of each financial year, make a report to the Treasurer of the Association, showing the amount of money collected and expended under each of the above named heads for the past year.

4. That the Treasurer of the Association shall receive from the churches all funds collected for the various articles specified in article 2nd of this plan, and forward the same promptly to the proper authorities for which such funds may be designated. And that said Treasurer shall keep a book in which to keep an itemized and separate account with each church, said accounts to show the amount received for each and every object, when received, and to whom and when paid out.

And the said Treasurer shall also keep in said book an itemized statement for each church separately, showing the amount of money raised and expended by each church for the objects named in article 3 of this plan.

5. The Treasurer shall make to the Association, at each session, a report showing a full and complete resume of the finances of the Association and of each of the churches for the preceding associational year, and for his services the Treasurer shall be paid one per cent of all the money received and disbursed by him, said commission to be retained by said Treasurer out of the money passing through his hands, and each of the various funds to bear its equal share of the same.

6. That the Executive Committee be instructed to prepare, have printed and furnish the churches suitable and necessary blanks for carrying out this financial system.

Fraternally submitted,

H. H. Brown, Ch'n.

The report on Church Improvements was read by S. G. Robertson, and on motion of T. P. Waller, was adopted.

REPORT ON CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS.

We find that there have been $8,162 expended in our bounds in church improvements. We would suggest that a committee be appointed at this session to report on this subject; and also we recommend that we, as an Association, do hereby endorse the action of the Baptist State Convention in the establishment of the church-building department, and we urge our churches to take collections for this work.

Respectfully,

S. G. Robertson.

The Association then adjourned with benediction by J. W. Stewart.

NIGHT SESSION.

A. B. Johnston, Moderator pro tem.

The report of the committee on Devotions was read by S. R. C. Adams and adopted, as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DEVOTIONS.

At the Baptist church, 11 o'clock A. M.—Rev. G. A. Chunn.
At 7:30 o'clock P. M.—Rev. J. W. Stewart.
At the Methodist church, 11 o'clock A. M.—Rev. W. A Hobson.
At 7:30 o'clock P. M.—Rev. G. T. Lee.
Sunday School mass meeting at the Baptist church at 9:30 o'clock A. M., addressed by R. W. Beck and W. R. Ivey.
Rev. H. H. Shell to the convicts at 3:30 P. M.

S. R. C. Adams, Ch'n.

The report of the Finance committee was read by W. R. Malone, and on motion was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Churches.	Ministerial Education.	Minutes.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Total.
Bethany	$	$	$	$	$	$
Second Baptist, Birmingham		2 00				2 00
Canaan		1 50	5 00			6 50
Cahaba		2 00			2 00	4 00
Central	10 00	2 00			3 35	15 35
Enon		1 25				1 25
Hopewell						
New Prospect	5 00	2 35				3 35
Pleasant Ridge	10 00	3 00	4 85	4 85	9 70	22 40
Ruhama		3 00				3 00
Salem	35	1 85	1 25	70		4 75
Springville	10 00	2 00	40	50	2 00	14 90
Williamsburg						
Jones' Valley						
Warrior		3 00	13 00	9 40	9 45	34 85
Pratt Mines		3 30				3 30
Oak Grove		2 20				2 20
Dolomite		3 00			1 20	4 20
South Side		3 00				3 00
Woodlawn		4 00				4 00
Third Church, Birmingham		2 00			50	2 50
Avondale		5 00				5 00
Bessemer		1 00		1 25		2 25
Mt. Olive		1 00				1 00
Elyton		1 00	75	75	1 00	3 50
Green Springs		1 00			1 75	2 75
First Baptist, Birmingham		5 00				5 00
Concord		1 50				1 50
						$ 179 25

Night Collection, Friday 21, for missions, $9.55.

W. M. Malone,
James Russell,
J. M. Presley,
Committee.

The following resolutions were offered by H. H. Brown, and after discussion by H. H. Brown, G. T. Lee, A. B. Johnston and G. A. Chunn, were adopted:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to prepare a plan looking to the systematic bringing before the churches and congregations of this Association the subject of missions, instructing and educating the people upon the importance of the same, and a plan for raising funds for the various objects fostered by the denomination; and also to prepare a blank form for letters to the Association.

Resolved, That the plan so prepared be printed and copies furnished to all the pastors, clerks and teachers of each church in the Association.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be instructed to issue an appeal to the churches urging them to adopt the plans suggested by the Association, and co-operate with the committee and officers of the Association in carrying out the same; and that the committee be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for funds sufficient to meet the expenses of these resolutions.

The brother having the report on Temperance being absent, the subject was discussed by A. B. Johnston, G. T. Lee, J. W. Stewart and R. N. Cunningham, and the report was ordered to be made to-morrow.

SUNDAY—MORNING SESSION.

Services opened by singing, and prayer by J. W. Stewart.

The report on Temperance was read by R. J. Waldrop, and adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Temperance is a moral virtue that claims the attention of every one who regards the health of body, mind or spirit. The Apostle Paul exhorts to temperance in all things.

If it is true that we can not be healthy unless we are temperate, it is therefore of the utmost importance that we be temperate in all things, from the fact that we are incapacitated for the amount of good we might otherwise accomplish. Furthermore, we are responsible for the use we make of these bodies. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?"

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." We all know how much better, and how much more, we can do while in perfect health.

Laying aside constitutional vigor, perhaps nothing affects our general health so much as temperate habits. Then if so much depends on health, and health depends so largely on temperate habits, how important that we begin at the right time and in the right manner to be temperate. And this brings us to the central thought of this report. It is our opinion that a great many of the existing evils of intemperance are brought about by the ignorance and carelessness of parents in permitting their children to gratify intemperate desires. It appears to us that in the family circle is the place to strike at the root of this evil.

Intemperance, brethren, is one of the consequent evils of the "fall," and is here to stay. Prohibition may prohibit, but what lasting good will it do while parents persist in feeding the flames by yielding to every fancy of the rising generation? The time has come when parents try, even against their better judgment, to gratify every wish of their children. Many are actually afraid to say or do anything incompatible with the notions of the "darling boy;" and instead of controlling him, he virtually controls them. Is it not true that mothers sometimes, in the name of medicine prescribed by the family physician, cultivates in the infant she holds so dear to her bosom a taste for alcohol? Is it not true that the child has all of whatever it wants to eat? Is it not true that the boy at a very early age is permitted to spend his dimes for cigarettes, packed with obscene pictures that are calculated to destroy every moral sentiment? Is it not true that the young man is sometimes away from home at night, when none of the family can tell where; and if he chooses he visits the drinking saloon, and his parents dare not say a word to him about his conduct, for he may leave home and get away from all restraint. They dare not now assert their right to control. Alas! it is too late. Having started wrong, he is let alone to pursue his own way; and his way is not God's way, but the way that leads to destruction. We believe that if future generations are to be temperate in all things, they must be taught it from the cradle. Parents must command absolute obedience. But what can be done with those parents who do not care?

This brings us to another question—a legal question—that of prohibition. We know that where such laws have been enforced much good has been the result. But, brethren, what are we doing in that direction? Let us consider, and arise to our duty.

Respectfully submitted.

H. F. Wood, Ch'n.

Report of committee on Nominations was read by T. V. B. Moor, and discussed by G. T. Lee, S. T. Vann, J. T. Mason, and R. J. Waldrop, and after much debate the report was adopted. It was grateful that six churches should ask for the next sitting of the Association.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your committee on nominations, recommend:

1st. Place of next meeting, Ruhama church.

2nd. Time, on Friday, (10 A. M.,) before second Sunday in October, 1889.

3rd. Introductory Sermon, to be preached by B. F. Riley, D. D.; alternate, D. I. Purser, D. D.

4th. Missionary Sermon, by Rev. P. T. Hale, alternate Rev. L. G. Skipper.

5th. Executive Committee: R. J. Waldrop, Chairman; F. M. Wood, T. W. Long, D. N. Talley, M. G. Hudson, S. R. Caffee, A. B. Johnson, J. M. Russell, G. W. Harral.

6th. Delegates to State Convention: As there will be another meeting of this Association before the Convention meets, we leave the appointment of the delegates to be made at our next session.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention: Rev. A. J. Waldrop: alternate, R. W. Beck.

Respectfully submitted,

T. V. B. Moor,
Chairman.

The hour having arrived for the special order, the report on Sunday-schools was called for, but no report was offered, as the appointing of this committee had been overlooked at the last meeting of the Association. The subject of Sunday-schools, however, was discussed by R. W. Beck and W. R. Ivey, and a committee was appointed, consisting of R. J. Waldrop, H. F. Wood, and T. V. B. Moor, to prepare a report on Sunday-schools and furnish it to the Clerk to print in the minutes.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The great need among the churches of to-day is a proper appreciation and correct comprehension of the teachings of the Bible upon the subject of Systematic Beneficence, the plan of which is to be found in the first of the two epistles addressed "to the Church of God at Corinth," and also, "to all that in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." It is this: "Now, concerning the collection for the saints, as I gave orders to the churches at Galatia, so also do you. Upon the first day of the week let each one of you lay by him in store as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come." This comprehends the whole system of Christian obligation, and covers

every duty bounden upon us by our professed allegiance to the Kingdom of the Master. This plan, strictly followed out, would forever remove the finances of our church and denominational operations from contingency.

Now, there is but one way to bring about this desideratum. It remains to be done by the Sunday School workers of our land. Let us say here that a man or woman who is even indifferent to the cause of missions should not be allowed to hold office in a Baptist Sunday School. God has committed unto us the training of the rising generation, and He will require their usefulness at our hands, and let us see to it that they be developed into a generation of givers, trained to regard themselves as stewards of God. Why not? We have every facility we could wish for from which to draw information, the immediate aim being to know what the Bible teaches; and now, Sunday School teachers, and those who have the training of our children in charge, the work is upon you, and the grand opportunity is yours, to see to it that the children and youth of our land place their feet in wisdom's ways, and grow up to manhood and womanhood with just and correct views of their obligations to Christ and his Kingdom. Why not be as eager to teach them what they become Christians for, as to make them Christians? Getting people into the church, now-a-days is an easy matter—training them properly is always the difficult work. Ah! brethren, what is to be gained by learning what the Bible teaches, if we do not the things it enjoins?

Brethren, wake up to a full comprehension of your duty, and lead your children and your neighbors' children into the full light and liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and don't hold them in the backgrounds of ignorance, superstition and apathy, from whence they only now and then get glimpses and glances of that glorious light and liberty.

Now, brethren, let us push the Sunday School work for the next Associational year, and when we come up to the next meeting let your church letters show a marked improvement in every department of our church work.

R. J. Waldrop, Ch'n.

The Missionary Sermon was preached by Rev. G. A. Chunn, from the Scriptures, 72d Psalm and 16th verse, after which a cash collection was taken amounting to $34.70.

Sunday Afternoon.

Session opened with prayer by Rev. James Hogan.

The Moderator announced the following standing committees:

Foreign Missions—J. W. Stewart, O. J. Waldrop and Jas. Hogan.
Home Missions—M. G. Hudson, D. F. Hoover and D. N. Talley.
State Missions—S. R. C. Adams, G. A. Chunn and J M. Russell.
Education—A. B. Johnston, Gilbert Carter and S. G. Robertson.
Sunday Schools—H. H. Brown, J. M. Presley and John M. Huey.
Temperance—N. F. Miles, S. T. Vann and M. T. Branham.
Church Improvement—T. V. B. Moor, R. Y. Robertson and T. P. Waller.

On motion, the following committee was appointed to report at the next Association on the "Spiritual Condition of the Churches," to-wit: R. J. Waldrop, S. R. C. Adams and W. C. Ward.

It was the sense of the Association that this committee can do great good if they will prosecute their work diligently.

The report on Documents was read by J. W. Stewart, and, on motion, was adopted.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your committee on Documents report the following:

We have examined all the letters sent by the several churches, and find the statistical reports from many of them so meagre that it is impossible to form any just idea of the work we are doing. We urge the Clerks of churches to make full reports. Especially do we ask them to give the post-offices of their pastors and clerks.

The following churches ask for the next session of this Association: Second Birmingham, Ruhama, Trussville, Woodlawn, Central Warrior, New Prospect.

Respectfully submitted.

JNO. W. STEWART, Ch'n.

The reports of the District Committees were called for. Several brethren responded as to the work done in their respective Districts, but no written report was offered. A want of interest in the work was reported by all.

On motion of James Hogan, a standing committee on Denominational Literature was appointed. Said committee consisting of James Hogan, R. J. Waldrop and John M. Huey.

A motion was made by S. T. Vann to continue the District Committees as heretofore. An amendment was offered by S. R. C. Adams for one Associational General Meeting during the year After considerable discussion, it was decided to allow the Districts to remain as at present, and to continue the committees as they now stand, for the next Associational year.

James Hogan was appointed on the committee in the Second District, to fill a vacancy caused by the removal of G. G. Miles from the bounds of the Association.

The committees are as follows:

First District—M. T. Branham, G. A. Chunn, Williamson Franklin and J. M. Frazier.

Second District—Jas. Hogan, W. L. C. Vann, F. M. Wood and H. H. Brown.

Third District—O. J. Waldrop, R. Y. Robertson, J. V. Huey and Jas. Vines.

By order of the Association the Clerk was instructed to have one thousand copies of the Minutes printed, and that he be allowed fifteen dollars for his services.

By order of the Association the Treasurer was instructed to pay

over all moneys in his hands to the various objects for which they were collected.

The hour for the memorial services of J. J. D. Renfroe, D. D., having arrived, the committee appointed to draft suitable resolutions reported as follows:

REPORT OF MEMORIAL COMMITTEE ON DR. RENFROE.

This good brother will be among us no more. He was born in Montgomery county, Ala., August 30th, 1830, baptized August 30th, 1848, and entered the ministry in 1852.

During a life of fifty-eight years of amazing activity, as an earnest advocate of the right, a fearless defender of the cause of truth, a brave chaplain in the late civil war, and a beloved pastor, he abounded in every good work. Having espoused the cause of his Master, and wrought with no uncertain results for its advancement to the very end, he quietly passed away at Woodlawn, Ala., June 3d, 1888.

With an unfaltering love to our departed brother, and in meek submission to our Lord, we say "Thy will be done."

JNO. W. STEWART,
H. H. BROWN,
W. M. MALONE,
Committee.

After singing and extending the parting hand, the Association adjourned to meet with the Ruhama Baptist Church at East Lake, Ala., on Friday, at 10 o'clock A. M., before the second Sabbath in October, 1889.

A. J. WALDROP, Moderator.

R. W. BECK, Clerk.

APPENDIX A.

To the Canaan Baptist Association:

We, your committee appointed to apportion to the different churches the amount asked for by the State Mission Board from this Association, beg leave to report as follows:

Avondale	$ 58 48	Hopewell	$ 47 30
Bessemer	30 96	Jones' Valley	28 38
First Birmingham	427 42	New Prospect	105 78
Second Birmingham	35 26	Mt Olive	20 80
Third Birmingham	85 14	Oak Grove	68 80
Southside	147 06	Pleasant Ridge	57 62
Bethany	43 00	Pratt Mines	87 22
Canaan	39 56	Ruhama	139 32
Central	60 20	Salem	70 52
Concord	32 68	Springville	82 56
Dolomite	88 58	Trussville	115 10
Elyton	17 20	Williamsburg	12 90
Enon	48 16	Warrior	88 58
Green Springs	21 50	Woodlawn	86 00

Respectfully submitted.

JAS. HOGAN, Ch'n.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God—the Father, Word, and Holy Ghost.

ART. 2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

ART. 5. We believe in man's incapability by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature.

ART. 6 We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

ART. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

ART. 8. We believe that the saints shall be preserved in grace, and never fall finally away.

ART. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of baptism, and that by immersion is the Apostolic mode.

ART. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment, and that the felicity of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

ART. 11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel but one who is regularly baptized, called, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

ART. 12. We believed that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's table.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1888.

Churches.	County.	Pastors.	Clerks.	Clerk's P. O.	Membership last reported.	INCREASE BY			DECREASE BY			Present Membership.	S. S. Officers and Teachers.	S. S. Pupils.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration	Letter.	Exclusion.	Death.			
†Avondale	Jefferson.	H H. Shell	B H. Newell	Avondale	...	10	28	...	5	.	1	68	...	174
†1st Church, Birmingham	"	D. I. Purser	E. F. Enslen	Birmingham.	523	....	...	....	....	....	....	497	....	150
†2d " "	"	J. W. Stewart	J. P. Rockett	Mounds.	40	2	12	...	....	....	....	41	7	180
†3d " "	"	Jas. Hogan	J. W. Tomlinson.	Birmingham	82	7	15	...	7	2	3	99	....	50
†South Side Church, Birmingham	"	P. T. Hale	J. A. Stratton	Birmingham	153	13	40	...	33	....	2	171	20	142
†Bessemer	"	G. T. Lee	D. F. Hoover	Bessemer	13	2	24	..	3	...	....	36	9	85
*Bethany	St. Clair.	R. W. Inzer	.....	Springville.	50	....	...	...	....	....	....	50	....	...
Canaan	Jefferson.	O. J Waldrop	J. N. Smithson.	Jonesboro	48	..	....	....	5	1	....	46	4	38
Central.	"	M. T. Branham	.....	Argo.	70	....	3	.	4	...	....	70	4	30
Concord	"	J. G. Lowery	S. B. Franklin	Brownsville	28	21	5	1	9	8	...	38	...	....
Dolomite	"	S. R. C. Adams.	J. A. Sartain.	Dolomite	61	19	31	....	5	1	1	103	11	128
†Elyton	"	W. W. Harris	T. H. Wildsmith	Birmingham	13	6	1	....	..	....	....	20	6	40
Enon	"	R. W. Inzer	W. M. Rogers	Morris	56	2	...	...	1	1	..	50	...	...
†Green Springs	"	W. R. Ivey	G. W. Smith	.....	.....	...	...	....	....	....	....	25	..	42
*Hopewell.	Blount	J. W. Dorman	.....	Village Springs	55	....	....	....	..	....	....	55	....	....
*Jones' Valley	Jefferson.	.....	.....	.....	...	..	....	....	....	....	....	33	....	..
Mt. Olive	"	.....	.....	.....	.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	...	....	...
New Prospect	"	M. T. Branham	W. O. M. Franklin	Huffman.	103	18	7	..	4	.	1	123	6	41
Oak Grove	"	G. A. Chunn	W. B. McCombs	Newcastle	71	3	2	5	1	....	....	80	3	35
Pleasant Ridge.	"	W. S. Culpeper	S. H. Huey	Woodward	79	8	....	....	17	1	2	67	4	60
Pratt Mines	"	S. R. C. Adams	J. W. Riddle	Pratt Mines	51	17	28	....	5	...	3	102	.	....
†Ruhama	"	A. W. McGaha	H F. Wood	East Lake	143	1	28	....	1	....	2	162	6	80
Salem.	"	M. T. Branham	J. H. Hagood	Mt Pinson	87	..	2	..	4	1	...	82	3	30
Springville.	St. Clair	J. A. Glenn	.....	Springville	90	3	8	....	2	....	3	96	4	30
Trussville	Jefferson.	S. R. C. Adams.	D. H. Vann	Trussville	145	....	2	...	4	6	2	135	...	..
Warrior	"	G T. Lee	J. L. Hagler	Warrior	84	5	8	..	6	6	1	103	...	75
*Williamsburg	"	.....	.....	.....	...	....	...	..	...	....	..	15	...	...
Woodlawn	"	B. F. Riley	J. L. Johnson	Woodlawn	73	3	25	..	...	...	1	100	12	106

*Churches that have sent no letter to the Association, and statistics are taken from former reports.

†Preaching Sabbath—Every Sabbath.

FINANCIAL STANDING OF THE CHURCHES AS REPORTED IN THE LETTERS.

Churches.	Visiting Ministers.	Pastors' Salary.	Missions.	Church Expenses.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Sunday Schools	Home Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Poor.	Current Expenses.	Endowment Fund.	Howard College.	Teachers' Aid S'cty.	Church Building.	American Baptist Publication Society.	Total.
South Side Church, Birmingham	$		$	$	$ 2 00	$ 150 00	$ 265 25	$	$ 10 00	$25 00	$33 60	$	$	$	$	$	$ 1 608 45
Green Springs					3 25												3 25
Second Baptist Church, Birmingham		252 05		32 30	24 05	11 75	61 00	3 00	15 00	8 50	6 50	50 00	200 00				3 067 35
Ruhama	15 00	723 35		128 85	07 20		46 25			11 25				121 40	6 630 00		7 761 30
Woodlawn		490 80			21 00	7 00	61 40	7 00	25 00					125 10	155 55	23 25	854 70
Pleasant Ridge		80 00															80 00
First Church, Birmingham		2 000 60		622 16					258 00	28 35		779 00			495 00		2 000 00
Salem		45 00					5 20										50 00
Canaan		50 00					2 00										52 00
Warrior		200 00		100 00			40										201 40
Oak Grove		60 25		6 25	10 00	1 25	6 00	2 50	2 80	10 00							106 05
Springville		125 00		160 00			10 00										295 00
Third Church, Birmingham					20 00				15 00	30 00							65 00
Pratt Mines Church		300 00		360 90	35 65		31 45		10 00	16 00							699 90
Central Baptist Church		110 00		2 25			11 40										130 65
Avondale Baptist Church		370 00		35 35	50 00	10 00	20 00		12 00								497 35
Elyton		24 00		206 80			8 60										239 40
Dolomite		172 00		53 00	57 00		71 95		15 00								388 95
Concord		101 40		22 00				17 00									140 40
Bessemer		140 00		665 00		3 75	22 95										832 30
Enon		55 00							5 00								60 00
New Prospect		56 85					5 00										61 85
			$6 610 70														$18 995 50

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